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ABSTRACT

The report discusses the activities of the Instituto para la Promocion de la Culture Civica (ICC), a non-partisan, not-for-profit Mexican nongovernmental organization (NGO) that has as its mission: to promote the advancement of a civic culture understood as a system of values, ideas, traits of character, dispositions, inclinations, attitudes, habits, knowledge, and skills that make people think of themselves as members of a political and social community; to exercise and practice its citizens' status and develop their potential to get involved in an active, informed, committed, productive, responsible, and selected way in actions and processes aimed at promoting individual, group, or collective interests; and to build the common good inside the diverse communities to which they belong. The report states that, to achieve those goals, the ICC designs, promotes, implements, and evaluates formal and informal civic education processes; the promotion of democracy is the fundamental principle and foremost motivation of the ICC. The report also discusses the ICC's goals and objectives and its activities, and lists 10 recent publications, as well as 8 recent appearances by organization members on mass media outlets. (BT)

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Instituto para la Promoción de la Cultura Cívica, A.C.

Mission

Philosophy

Goals and objectives

Challenge and Commitment

Activities

Publications and Essays

Presence in the mass media

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Mission

The Instituto para la Promoción de la Cultura Cívica (ICC) is a non partisan not for profit Mexican NGO that has as its mission To promote the advancement of a civic culture understood as a system of values, ideas, traits of character, dispositions, inclinations, attitudes, habits, knowledge and skills that make people think of themselves as members of a political and social community, to exercise and practice its citizen status and develop their potential to get involved in an active, informed, committed, productive, responsible, and selected way in actions and processes aimed to promote individual, group or collective interests and to build the common good inside the diverse communities they belong. In order to achieve that, the ICC designs, promotes, instruments and evaluates formal and informal civic education processes.

Since 1997 the ICC promotes in Mexico a higher place for civic education on the public agenda through contacting with public officials as well as political and social organizations, information dissemination, conferences involvement, interviews on the media, articles and essays writing. Besides the ICC provides help to those designing, implementing and evaluating formal and informal civic education strategies, programs, processes and techniques.

The ICC mainly works contacting: the media, the government, public officials, elective representatives, social and political leaders, civic education researchers and experts, NGOs, teacher organizations, and other institutions and actors in the field.

The ICC is a non-profit non-partisan NGO. The members have diverse political, religious, and ideological affiliations but share the ideals of democracy, and are dedicated to the promotion of civic culture in Mexico.

Philosophy

The promotion of democracy is the fundamental principle and foremost motivation of the ICC. We believe it is the democratic political system that best permits the participation of citizens in the political decision making process, assures government accountability, and enforces the rule of law. However the strengthening of the democratic system and sustaining its effectiveness depends on well informed, politically competent citizens. Understanding rights and responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society will enable citizens to attain political power and social development. We are convinced that participation must begin at the local level and expand in scope to the national and international level.

Therefore promoting this civic culture must, we believe, be based on citizen awareness and fulfillment of the following principles and values: Freedom / Dialogue / Equality / Responsibility / Fraternity / Pluralism / Justice / Legality / Tolerance / Respect / Participation.

Goals and objectives

The goals and objectives of the Institute are to advance political confidence, efficacy, trust and engagement of Mexican citizens through the development of the foundations, both in

theory and practice, of a civic culture. The institute will accomplish its goals and objectives by seeking involvement in:

- Promoting formal and informal civic education in Mexico.
- Developing educational programs, textbooks, and teaching materials.
- Advising institutions in both the formal and informal education process.
- Developing training programs for teachers and instructors.
- Preparing surveys and theoretical analytical, and field reports.
- Producing audio, video and printed material.
- Organizing meetings, seminars, exchange programs and workshops.
- Simulating cooperation and support among institutions and organizations.
- Participating in networks of associations or institutions interested in civic education.

Challenge and Commitment

As a result of political transition over the last 10 years, Mexico has experienced a series of substantial political reforms in its legal and institutional frameworks. Until now, this process of political transition has involved laws and institutions but for stable and effective democracy to work, we need to develop the cultural foundations to support those institutional changes. It is through effective civic education these foundations can be understood and practiced. Now is the time to work purposefully in promoting and nurturing the values, norms, and practices that enlighten democratic citizenship and democratic culture.

Our challenge is to improve the quality of Mexico's emerging democracy through the establishment of a civic culture. However, it is a commitment and a responsibility that must be shared by governments, political parties, media, schools, and civic organizations as well as individuals and families. It is only through collaboration and commitment by all Mexicans that our cause will succeed.

Invitation to participate

The massive challenge of civic education requires an extraordinary effort. Only together can we develop, implement, and improve democracy in Mexico. The building of a civic culture is a task to which we are all bound by duty. We invite you to join us in this vast and noble effort.

Board of Directors

Diana Alvarez

Roberto Blum

Imer Flores

Luis Miguel Morán

Eric Suzán

Activities

Telephone interview at a request from a researcher from the TV program *Diálogos en Confianza* of *channel 11* of national TV on the subject of the state of civic education in Mexico as part of the process of gathering background information for the production of the 2 hour-long program to be aired on June the 11th of 1999 (May 12th, 1999).

Delivery of background information at the request of the production team of the TV program on Children and Citizenship Formation in Mexico that will be aired in *Diálogos en Confianza* of *channel 11* of national TV (May 8th, 1999).

Diverse petitions before the TV program *Diálogos en Confianza* of *channel 11* of national TV aiming to encouraging them to focus one of their 2 hours emissions to the issue of civic education in Mexico (mayo 1999).

Technical assistance to the Advisor to the Federal Secretary of Public Education in charge of implementing the new subject Formación Cívica y Etica to be given at 7th, 8th and 9th grades on the differences among the concepts State, Country and Nation for the elaboration of in-service teacher training materials for Formación Cívica y Etica (April 1999).

Technical assistance to the Advisor to the Federal Secretary of Public Education in charge of implementing the new subject Formación Cívica y Etica to be given at 7th, 8th and 9th grades on the laws that regulate the different subjects the Formación Cívica y Etica curricula refers to in order to list them in the in-service teacher training materials for Formación Cívica y Etica (April 1999)

Elaboration, under contract, of a third part of the textbooks for the subject "Formación Cívica y Etica" for grades 7th. and 8th., that will be published the current year by Editorial Santillana, and will be distributed throughout the Mexican Republic (Febrary to May 1999).

Participation in the Seminario Taller para *Editores y Autores de Libros de Texto de Educación Secundaria de Formación Cívica y Etica* organized by the SEP (Federal Ministry of Public Education of Mexico) (January 28 and 29, 1999).

Development and presentation at their request of a proposal to the group of advisors to the Federal Secretary of Public Education, in charge of working out the *Proyecto de creación de la nueva materia Formación Cívica y Etica for 7th., 8th. and 9th grades (December 7 and 12, 1998).*

Information research and development of documents at request of the advisor to the Federal Secretary of Public Education, in charge of working out the *Proyecto de creación de la nueva materia Formación Cívica y Etica for 7th., 8th. and 9th grades (November 25, 27 and 30, December 1, 1999).*

Working sessions with the advisor of advisors to the Federal Secretary of Public Education, in charge of working out the *Proyecto de creación de la nueva materia*

Formación Cívica y Etica for 7th., 8th. and 9th grades, in order to explore at her request certain issues to be contained in the new curriculum. (November 5 and 24, 1998).

Participant by invitation in the close door seminar called *Seminario Latinoamericano sobre Participación Cívica Infantil y Juvenil* held in Mexico City, under the auspices of the Instituto Federal Electoral, the UNICEF, the Federal Ministry of Public Education, the Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos, the Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal and the Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo Integral de la Familia (November 26 and 27, 1998).

Meeting with the advisor to the Electoral Counselor of the Instituto Federal Electoral(IFE), Mauricio Merino, to explore a potential contribution of the ICC, in the designing and instrumentation of the collaboration agreements in civic issues that would be suscribed by IFE with the associations of Majors from the PRI, PAN and PRD, respectively.

Participation as a speaker in the workshops: 1) Strategies, *methodologies, and techniques for civic education at school*, (2) Strategies, *methodologies, and techniques for civic education outside school, and* (3) *the mass media and the processes of citizenship development* in the *Foro de Educación Cívica y Cultura Política Democrática* organized in Mexico City under the auspicies of IFE, and the Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Instituciones de Educación Superior (ANUIES), the Asociación Mexicana para las Naciones Unidas, Causa Ciudadana, the Centro de Estudios Educativos, the Colectivo Mexicano de Apoyo a la Niñez, the Foro de Apoyo Mutuo, the Fundación SNTE para la Cultura del Maestro Mexicano, A.C., the Gobierno del Estado de México, the Instituto para la Promoción de la Cultura Cívica, A.C., the Fundación de Apoyo a la Infancia, and the Secretaría de Educación de Educación, Salud y Desarrollo Social del Gobierno del Distrito Federal (November 4, 5 and 6, 1998).

Participation at IFE's invitation, in the organizing committee of the del *Foro de Educación Cívica y Cultura Política Democrática* to be held in Mexico City (September and October, 1998).

Exchange with the Director of the monthly journal *Educación 2001*, about the status of civic education in Mexico and the ways in which it can be improved (September 17, 1999).

Counseling the Dirección de Cultura Política del IFE about the implementation process of the Project Citizen, in its pilot stage in the states of Jalisco and Yucatán, as well as in the Federal District (August, 1998).

Exchange with Alberto Begné Guerra, former Director Executive Director for Electoral Trainning and Civic Education of IFE 1997-98, about the status of civic education in Mexico and the ways in which it can be improved (August 5, 1998).

Petition before the General Director for Youth Programs of the Ministry of Public Education in orden to get more future publicity for the civics achievement cathegory of *the Premio Nacional de la Juventud* media campaign (August 1998).

Presentation of the dissertation *¡Lets begin with the citizens! An invitation to promote the citizen formation with the aim of achieving the Mexico we wish for year 2020*, at the invitation of the Presidents of the monthly magazine *Líderes Mexicanos* and presidents of the organizing committee, in the education workshop of the *III Coloquio Líderes del Futuro*, held in the Hotel Nikko of Mexico City (August 1998)

Organization of the seminar *The promotion of the civic culture, our contribution in building a better Mexico*, Camino Real Sumiya Hotel, in Cuernavaca City, Morelos, México (July 25, 26, 1998).

Petitions before the General Director of Political Linkage and the Director of Political Culture of the Undersubsecretary for Political Development of the Ministry of the Interior, in order to organize a forum highlighting the relevance of civic education aiming at inscribing this topic on the national agenda of priorities (July, 1998).

Petitions before the President of the Radio, Televition and Cinema Committee of the House of Representatives, in order to include civic education topics on the new T.V Cable Channel of the National Congress operated by the Bicameral Commission of Congress (June, 1998).

Petitions before the President of the Gobernance and Constitutional Issues Committee of the House of Representatives, in order to include certain provisions in the Citizen Participation Law encouraging activities of civic education for a better citizen nurturing and participation (June, 1998).

Exploratory research on the status of civic education in Mexico that included 55 answered questionnaires either by authorities in education or NGOs from 12 states of Mexico and on which a report on its results was made (October, 1997 to April, 1998).

Exchange with the Executive Director for Electoral Training and Civic Education of IFE to let him know the ICC institutional mission and to offer collaboration in IFE's projects (December, 1997).

Dissertations by invitation of SNTE (National Educational Workers Union) in the workshop: Civic Education as a containment to organized crime and corruption (Mexico City, November 12, 1997), and in the workshop: The constitutional axiology of education (Guadalajara City, Jalisco, November 17, 1997), both as the program of activities of the *SNTE's Second National Congress on Education: To educate in Democracy and Respect to Diversity: A SNTE's Commitment*.

Dissertation in a civic education workshop in Querétaro City with the participation of the State Minister of Education of Querétaro (October, 1997).

Development of a chapter about civic values for the second book of the subject Desarrollo Humano Integral 2: Los valores en la vida social y profesional, of CONALEP (November, 1997).

Petition before the President of the General Council of IFE to promote project citizen as a mean to contribute in the civic education (November, 1997).

Coorganizer of the International Conference: Propiciando una Cultura de la Legalidad. La fundación de la Educación Primaria y Secundaria ēn la Lucha contra el Crimen y la corrupción, with the attendance of 70 experts from 35 countries (October 23 and 24,1997).

Meeting with the Executive Director of Civic Education of IFE to let him know the ICC institutional mission and offer collaboration in projects (October, 1997).

Meeting with the President of the General Council of IFE to explore common links in the promotion on Civic Education (October, 1997).

Participation by invitation to the Annual Conference of Civic Education of the American Bar Association (San Francisco, California, EUA, January,1997).

Participation in the planning meeting of the second Steering Committee of CIVITAS (October, 1997).

Meeting with the President of the General Council of IFE to explore common links in the promotion on Civic Education (September, 1997).

Exchange visits, in four occasions to the Center for Civic Education, California, EUA, (1996, 1997).

Coordinator in Mexico, in the building project of a framework of International coverage for Civic Education, by petition of the Center for Civic Education, (1996,1997).

Participation on the first meeting of the Steering Committee of CIVITAS (May, 1997).

Attendance as member of the five latinamerican observer guests to the Organization Committee Meeting of CIVITAS (May, 1997).

Petitions in two occasions, before the Subsecretario de Educación Básica of the Federal Ministry of Public Education to encourage more attention to some aspects of civic education (December, 1996 and February, 1997).

Attendance by invitation to the second International Conference on Civic Education CIVITAS PANAMERICANO, along with 150 experts and more than 45 countries (Buenos Aires, Argentina, September, October, 1996).

Participation in the exchange program with specialized institutions of the project: Civic Education for America, of the USIA (Los Angeles, Boston, Bloomington, Washington, Minneapolis, Saint Paul May, 1996 and May 1997), Participating in meetings with the following organizations:

- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation

- Center for Civic Education
- Center for the Press, the Media and Public Policy of the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government
- Civic Education Coordination of USIA
- Childreen Department of Minnesota Government
- ERIC Clearinghouse for Social Studies and Social Science Education at Indiana University
- Harvard University Graduate School of Education
- Humprey Center for Citizenship at University of Minnesota
- Interamerican Development Bank
- Kettering Foundation
- League of Women Voters
- National Endowment for Democracy
- Partners of the Americas
- Pew Center for Civic Journalism
- Public High Schools at Boston
- Public High Schools at Minneapolis
- The World Bank.

Publicaciones y ensayos

THE CITIZENSHIP SEED. *How to Carry Out a Citizen's Revolution from school*, at Arredondo, Vicente (coordinator), NOTES FOR A CITIZEN'S REVOLUTION, Fundación Demos and Instituto de Análisis y Propuestas (being printed), Mexico, 1999.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE TO A CITIZEN'S ETHIC?, at the special issue on Civic Education of the monthly magazine "Educación 2001", number 41, Mexico, October 1998. pp. 12-13.

SHAPING FUTURE CITIZENS: *13 useful tips for those in charge of the Civics course*, at the special issue on Civic Education of the monthly magazine "Educación 2001", Number 41, Mexico, October 1998, pp. 43-46

SIEZING THE IMPLICATIONS OF BEING A CITIZEN. *Citizenship, A Fundamental Political-Consitutional Cathegory*, at the monthly journal *LEX*, Mexico, June 1998. (in print)

ABSENT CITIZENS. *Civic Education as a National Priority*, at the special issue on civic education of the journal "Revista del Centro de Investigaciones Educativas", Special Number, Mexico, Winter 1997.

THE CIVIC EDUCATION CONCEPT. *Its vigor compared with other potential denominations*. Essay prepared for the Executive Direction of Electoral Training and Civic Education of the Federal Electoral Institute, November 1997.

Dissertation presented at SNTE's invitation in the *workshop: THE CONSTITUTIONAL AXIOLOGY IN EDUCATION*, as part of the 2nd SNTE's National Congress of Education: Teaching in democracy and in the respect to diversity: SNTE's Commitment, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, November 17, 1997.

Dissertation presented at SNTE's invitation: *CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF A CIVIC EDUCATION AIMED TO CONTRIBUTE IN A SYSTEMATIC WAY TO PROPICIATE A LAFULLNESS CULTURE AND A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FROM A CURRICULAR BASE., at the workshop*: CIVIC EDUCATION AS A CONTAINMENT TO CORRUPTION AND ORGANIZED CRIME, as part of the 2nd SNTE's National Congress of Education: Teaching in democracy and in the respect to diversity: SNTE's Commitment, Mexico City, Mexico, November 12, 1997.

CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF A CIVIC EDUCATION AIMED TO CONTRIBUTE IN A SYSTEMATIC WAY TO PROPICIATE A LAWFULNESS CULTURE FROM A CURRICULAR BASE. Essay presented to the participants consideration at the International Conference FOSTERING A *CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS. The function of the Primary and Secondary Education in the Fight against Crime and Corruption*, Mexico City, Mexico, October 24, 1997.

CIVITAS PANAMERICANO. An International Initiative for Democracy through Civic Education, at the journal *"Sociedad Civil"*, Number 2, Mexico, 1997.

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Presencia en Medios

Participation at the studio as part of the panel of 3 specialists in the 2 hour-long talk show on Children and Citizenship Formation of *Diálogos en Confianza* of *channel 11* of national TV (June 11th, 1999).

Interview at the studio for IFE's radio program of *Voices of Democracy*, conducted by Mario Díaz-Mercado Ordoñez in *Radio UNAM*, 96.1 of FM (November the 11th, 1998).

Press Conference on the *Forum on Civic Education and Democratic Political Culture* to be held in Mexico City the 4th, 5th and 6th of November of 1998 under the auspicies of IFE, and Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Instituciones de Educación Superior (ANUIES), la Asociación Mexicana para las Naciones Unidas, Causa Ciudadana, el Centro de Estudios Educativos, el Colectivo Mexicano de Apoyo a la Niñez, el Foro de Apoyo Mutuo, la Fundación SNTE para la Cultura del Maestro Mexicano, A.C., el Gobierno del Estado de México, el Instituto para la Promoción de la Cultura Cívica, A.C., la Fundación de Apoyo a la Infancia, y la Secretaría de Educación de Educación, Salud y Desarrollo Social del Gobierno del Distrito Federal (October the 26th, 1998).

Interview at the study for the program *A Lively Society* with Vicente Arredondo in the 1440 of AM (April the 27th, 1998).

Interview at the study for the program *A Lively Society* with Vicente Arredondo in the 1440 of AM (September the 15th, 1997).

Interview at the study for the program A *New Day*, with Cesar Costa y Rebeca de Alba Channel 2 (May the 6th, 1997).

Interview for *ECO Internacional* at Buenos Aires, Argentina covering CIVITAS Panamericano (October the 2nd, 1996).

Interview for *World Television International* at Buenos Aires, Argentina covering CIVITAS Panamericano (October the 2nd, 1996).

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